

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 10, lines 7-12 with the following amended paragraph:

In the case of binary codes, an important technical element of the invention is the use of 4 state trellis stages derived from a basic section. In the embodiment described later on (in the paragraph labeled "2) state basic sections..."), this section is called "H", and represents the extended Hamming code with parameters [8,4,4].

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 11, lines 15-19 with the following amended paragraph:

For codes on ring Z4 (which is the set {0, 1, 2, 3} provided with modulo 4 addition and multiplication), an equivalent code or a Nordstrom-Robinson code with parameters {8,4,6} may notably be used with the Lee distance (see the paragraph labeled "3) state basic trellis...").

Please replace the paragraph appearing on page 11, lines 21-24 with the following amended paragraph:

Also, codes may be produced on Z8 and Z16, by using two other small performing codes, in order to obtain stages with 64 and 256 states respectively (see the paragraph labeled "4) 64 state basic...").